



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

Collaborators: Mary A. Mackay, Denver, Colo., and Mrs. Helen LaMalle, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Michigan.—A Chair of Nursing and Health, with Dora Barnes as professor, has just been established at the University of Michigan. The first course which opened February 17, is to be a short course, but plans are under way for the usual eight months' course. The practice work of the nurses will be given in Detroit.

Detroit.—One hundred and seventy-five public health nurses were given a dinner recently by Mrs. Tracy McGregor, a Director of the Visiting Nurse Association, to show her personal appreciation of the spirit shown by them during the epidemic. She was unable to be present at the dinner, at which Mrs. Gretter, Superintendent of the Visiting Nurse Association, presided and made the address of welcome. Mrs. Dyak, a Director, responded for Mrs. McGregor, telling of the very warm interest she has taken in the local public health nursing since its beginning. The next speaker, Miss Aylsworth, a staff nurse who has been long in the service of the association, gave interesting and amusing reminiscences. Her tribute to Mrs. Gretter was appreciated by everyone, for she said, "Before we had a Board of Directors, before we had a Superintendent, we could not have gone on with the work if we had not been able to go over to Harper Hospital to consult with Mrs. Gretter, who was then its superintendent of nurses." Agnes Deans, now of the American Red Cross in Washington, but formerly Mrs. Gretter's assistant, echoed the sentiment and affection of every nurse in the room when she spoke of Mrs. Gretter as the "Mother and Dean of nursing in Michigan." Miss Barnes told of the new course at the University of Michigan and Miss Ahrens, of the Central Division of the American Red Cross, spoke of the peace developments of that big organization. She put special emphasis on the value of the short course in public health nursing for student nurses, who by coming upon our large staffs are going to release more experienced graduate nurses for some of the many positions now seeking capable trained workers. She reminded the nurses that the large staffs are, after all, but training schools in public health nursing and that it is their duty as well as their opportunity to leave this work which they have been able to do so successfully under supervision, to demonstrate that this supervision was worth while and has enabled them to do independent pieces of work elsewhere. Miss Ahrens also paid a deserved tribute to Mrs. Gretter's work. The Detroit Visiting Nurse Association was the pioneer in public health

nursing and the other staffs in the city were made possible by the generous vision which impelled it to give the first nurse to tuberculosis work, the first nurse to the Health Department, and to place others in baby welfare, pre-natal and county nursing. Mrs. Gretter has been very largely responsible for all of this, in spite of the fact that she so generously gives the credit to everyone but herself.

Chicago.—A Service League for the Handicapped has been organized, primarily to provide training and work for the partially disabled returning soldiers, but in time it plans to include the civilian disabled as well. On January 28, a mass meeting was held at Orchestra Hall in honor of Sir Arthur Pearson, the blind publisher, who has done so much for the blinded soldiers in England. Sir Arthur Pearson lost his sight in middle life, shortly before war was declared. From the first he made sure that he was not going to be a much pitied, useless member of society, and when the first blinded men were being returned from the trenches, he set about planning their training and education. Because they were soldiers and had given their best to England, a great deal of public sentiment, sympathy, and financial response was offered and the estate of St. Dunstan's, owned by Otto Kahn, a New York banker, was turned over to Sir Arthur to be used as he thought best in the development of the work for these soldiers. St. Dunstan's comprises nearly sixteen acres. It accommodates 700 blinded men, who are being taught from the first that their handicap is simply a temporary misfortune. The work has grown until the organization now numbers sixteen buildings, eleven in London and five in the provinces. To the visitor entering the main hallway, or the grounds, for the first time, the linoleum pathways running over the carpeted floors, the hand rails, the small boards set in gravel before the stairs, are perhaps the most conspicuous features. These pathways are a great help to the men in regaining confidence. Notices are posted everywhere telling visitors to keep off. The men are very early taught to walk by using the pathways and hand rails, but within three weeks they learn to get along without any of these artificial aids. The rapidity of motion which men so hate to lose is thus restored without any marked loss of time. Next the soldiers are taught to play hand games, such as checkers, dominoes, chess, and bridge. A debating club in which the discussions are very keenly followed, is a popular form of diversion. Music of all kinds is taught; dancing is insisted upon for everyone; rowing, swimming, racing, walking and running, bowling, wrestling, and for the officers, horse-back riding, are entered into with much spirit. The grounds touch the lake of Regent's Park and several times during the day the lake is dotted with boats propelled entirely by blind rowers. They get around the difficulty of mingling with the sighted people by hiring all

of the boats for the hours in which the use of the lake was desired. After the play and recreation, class-room work is taught. A man is first taught to read Braille. This he masters in a surprisingly short time, for each individual soldier has an individual teacher. The teachers are all volunteers and Sir Arthur paid them the warmest kind of a tribute, saying that they come faithfully and regularly in all kinds of weather. Typewriting and stenography are also taught and there are forty-four blind stenographers from St. Dunstan's now in good positions in London and the provinces. Netting is next taught, for this is easy, and gives a man that most essential sense of self-confidence and usefulness. Massage, carpentry, poultry breeding, telephone operating, picture framing and other trades are taught. Only preliminary work in massage is taught, the men finishing their training in the National School of Massage. All kinds of carpentry work are done. At first the carefully safe-guarded tools adapted by the French for use of the blind, were attempted, but they were quickly refused by the English soldiers, who demanded the ordinary tools. In the poultry breeding course the men are taught every detail, from the handling of the incubators to the dressing and preparing of fowls for market. This course is finished by a training of six weeks on a large poultry farm. A system has also been worked out which gives a six weeks' course to relatives, for it was early learned that the loving relative is the worst enemy of the recently blinded. In the class room, an uncommonly apt pupil is made a pupil teacher just as soon as possible, for the blind men like to be taught by other blind men. Thirty-four graduates of St. Dunstan's, blinded and with only one hand, have been set up in shops. An after-care system has been carefully worked out, the whole country has been districted, and when a man first leaves the institution, he is visited every four or five weeks by an expert in his own trade and later by a social visitor. He is helped to find markets for his work. One popular industry has been picture framing, and blinded men have been set up in picture framing shops just outside the grounds of most of the large public schools for boys in England. Here there is a steady demand for their wares for their clientele changes every year, and every year there are dozens of new photographs of teams and friends and relatives to be framed. The work of teaching and supervising the work of the blinded soldiers has spread to Canada and there are now five men in Toronto looking after ex-St. Dunstan's men. American nurses still in France and England should make every possible effort to visit St. Dunstan's before coming home, for we are not going to stop by trying to teach the blinded soldiers; and nurses, if they prepare themselves for it, may have a share in this big undertaking for the restoration of self-respect and self-support to handicapped men and women.